

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Amendments

This response:

- amends claim 1 to recite “one or more animals of said plurality of animals” instead of “each of said plurality of animals” and “one or more detected animals of said plurality of animals” instead of “each of said plurality of animals” (see the original specification at, e.g., Fig. 2);
- amends claim 1 to recite “providing at least a portion of said collected information to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking of the provided information,” claim 3 to recite “provide to said user benchmarking data based on at least a portion of said collected information,” claim 41 to recite “providing at least a portion of the collected information to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking based on the provided information,” claim 215 to recite “providing at least a portion of said collected attributes to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking based the provided collected attributes,” and claim 223 to recite “providing at least a portion of the requested information to a component configured to generate benchmarking information” (see the original specification at, e.g., p. 32, ¶ 101);
- amends claim 215 to recite “a software system” instead of “an expert system” (see the original specification at, for example: p. 18, ¶¶ 65-67; and p. 42, ¶ 134);

- amends claim 223 to recite “determining which access indicator from a plurality of access indicators is associated with said requested information” (see the original specification at, e.g., p. 39, ¶ 124);
- amends claims 225, 227 and 228 to recite “first user” and/or “second user” (see the original specification at, e.g., p. 5, ¶ 13); and
- amends claim 228 to recite “a software component configured to view a report for at least a portion of said requested information” (see the original specification at, e.g., p. 41, ¶ 128, p. 75, ¶ 219).

Rejections used 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Action rejects claims 215, 218, 223-225 and 228 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

This response amends claim 215 to recite “a software system” instead of “an expert system.” Accordingly, claim 215 satisfies § 112. Claim 218 depends from claim 215 and satisfies § 112 for at least the reasons stated above with respect to its parent claim.

This response also amends claim 223 to recite “determining which access indicator *from a plurality of access indicators* is associated with said requested information.” Amended claim 223 satisfies § 112. Claims 224, 225 and 227 depend from claim 223 and satisfy § 112 for at least the reasons stated above with respect to their parent claim.

The response also amends claim 228 to recite “said requested information” instead of “said accessible information.” For at least this reason, as well as the reasons explained above for its parent claim 223, claim 228 satisfies § 112.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 41-51 and 53-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,000,361 to Pratt (Pratt). The Action also rejects claims 215, 218, 223-225, 227 and 228 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065765 to Shuler et al. (Shuler). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended claim 1 recites, “providing at least a portion of said collected information to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking of the provided information.” Amended claim 3 recites, “provide to said user benchmarking data based on at least a portion of said collected information.” Amended claim 41 recites, “providing at least a portion of the collected information to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking based on the provided information.” Amended claim 215 recites, “providing at least a portion of said collected attributes to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking based the provided collected attributes.” Amended claim 223 recites, “providing at least a portion of the requested information to a component configured to generate benchmarking information.”

Pratt does not teach or suggest the method of independent claim 1. For example, Pratt is silent as to “providing at least a portion of said collected information to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking of the provided information.” Instead, Pratt merely describes “measurement” of “cattle in a large cattle feedlot.” See, e.g., Abstract. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Pratt.

Independent claims 3 and 41 are allowable over Pratt for at least reasons similar to those stated above for claim 1, as well as for the unique combinations of method acts or features recited therein.

Shuler does not teach or suggest the method of independent claim 215. For example, Shuler is silent as to “providing at least a portion of said collected attributes to one or more components configured to perform benchmarking based the provided collected attributes.” Instead, Shuler merely describes matching a “demand profile” with a “supply profile.” For at least these reasons, claim 215 is allowable over Shuler. Independent claim 223 is allowable over Shuler for reasons similar to those explained above for claim 215, as well as for the unique combinations of method acts recited therein.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1; claims 4 and 53-55 depend from claim 3; claims 42-51 depend from claim 41; claim 218 depends from claim 215; and claims 224, 225, 227 and 228 depend from claim 223. These claims are allowable for the reasons stated above for their respective parent claims, as well as for the unique combinations of method acts or features recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

New Claims

New claims 235-240 depend from claim 1. New claims 241 and 242 depend from claim 3. New claim 243 is independent.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite

prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling any interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

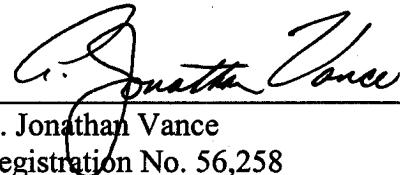
In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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